REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 14, 2004. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 4 are in independent form. Claims 1-7 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on April 30, 2001, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

Initially, the Office Action asserts, incorrectly, that the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 21, 2001, is improper in that it does not include a form PTO-1449 listing the cited document(s). Since the only document cited was an unpublished co-pending U.S. patent application, the assertion is erroneous. MPEP § 609.

Also in the Office Action, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This claim has been amended so that the claimed computer program, being functional descriptive material, is recorded on a computer-readable medium, thereby being structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium. Applicants understand that this should overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,343,361B1 (Nendell et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of conducting, in relation to a print job, a printing process between an originating device and a printer. In the recited method, at a computer communicating with the originating device over a network, image data to be printed is selected, the image data being stored at the originating device. In association with print job specific key information, the printing process is initiated at the originating device for printing the selected image data, and the printing process is suspended prior to outputting the print job from the printer. At a local user interface at the printer, there is inputted corresponding print job specific information, and depending upon the corresponding print job specific key information, the suspended printing process is enabled to output the print job from the printer.

It is firstly noted that this claim is directed to a method of conducting, in relation to a print job, a printing process between an originating device and a printer, whereas *Nendell* does not disclose anything about "printers" or "printing".

As noted, Claim 1 recites (i) inputting at a local user interface at the printer, corresponding print job specific key information and (ii) enabling, depending upon the corresponding print job specific key information, the suspended printing process to output the print job from the printer. This is supported in the description that states that "the process does not permit the printer 104 to output the printed pages until the security key 300 is equivalently inserted into the printer 104" (page 46, lines 21-23).[1]

If, for the sake of argument only, it is hypothetically allowed that the ATM 146 and the bank 144 in Fig. 4 of *Nendell* respectively represent the originating device and the printer

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[1] It is to be understood of course that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the portions of the specification referred to in this discussion.

of the current application, then the rejection founders upon the following points. When wishing to conduct a financial transaction using a credit card 142, the user140 in *Nendell* inputs information depending upon an authorization code 148a at the ATM 146 (i.e., the originating device) (column 11, lines 50-61) and the resultant input code 152 is transmitted to the bank 144 (i.e., the printer) where it is used to authenticate the user 140 (column 12, lines 20-34). Accordingly, the information used by the bank 144 to authenticate the user 140 is sent together with the information about the intended transaction. This does not even inputting at a local user interface at the printer, corresponding print job specific key information, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, *Nendell* does not disclose, and indeed teaches away from, the feature of inputting at a local user interface at the printer, corresponding print job specific key information. Thus, for at least the reason noted, Claim 1 is allowable over *Nendell*.

Independent Claim 4 recites features analogous to those of Claim 1 as discussed above, and thus for at least the reason noted, is also allowable over *Nendell*.

The other claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
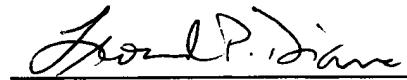
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